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DOCTRINES AND FRACTURES

The Media Narrative and the Strategy of Fragmentation

As of early January 2026, the mainstream media, led by the New York Times, has renewed its focus on perceived divisions within the MAGA movement. This narrative centers on the recent capture of Venezuela's de facto leader, Nicolás Maduro, framing it as a point of contention that threatens to create a new rift among supporters of the current administration. These reports characterize the event as a betrayal of campaign promises to avoid nation-building and foreign entanglements.

However, analysts suggest that this media focus is a form of psychological warfare intended to induce voter fatigue and political disengagement. By identifying latent wedge issues—such as foreign intervention or the legitimacy of international operations—media operators attempt to amplify social friction. This tactic is a core component of "color revolution" strategies, where the goal is not necessarily to persuade opponents to change their minds, but to batter supporters into staying home during critical political cycles.

The historical precedent for such operations can be seen in the 2014 Maidan protests in Ukraine, where external influence and the inflammation of cultural fault lines led to the overthrow of a democratically elected government and over a decade of conflict. Observers argue that similar destabilization techniques are now being applied internally within the United States to fracture political coalitions. While certain figures like Representative Thomas Massie and Marjorie Taylor Greene have expressed concern regarding how the Venezuela operation aligns with "America First" priorities, the

administration maintains that the capture of an indicted criminal does not constitute a "forever war" or an invasion.

The Capture of Nicolás Maduro: Strategic and Financial Rationale

The capture of Nicolás Maduro by United States forces has sparked a variety of hypotheses regarding the true motivations behind the operation. One prominent theory suggests that the United States is facing a critical fiscal crisis as the global market shifts away from U.S. bonds. According to this view, the federal government is running out of money and requires tangible assets to refinance its ailing financial system.

Under this hypothesis, the seizure of Venezuela's oil reserves—estimated at 300 billion barrels—is intended to serve as collateral to back the U.S. dollar. The plan involves privatizing these reserves to American oil firms, which the government would then tax on their profits. This move is seen as a businessman's approach to delaying a potential collapse in the dollar’s international value and extending the lifespan of the U.S. empire.

Furthermore, the operation is characterized by some as a "raid" facilitated by the cooperation of certain elements within the Venezuelan military and business sectors. Reports indicate that Venezuelan air defenses may have been deactivated, potentially in consultation with the CIA, to allow safe passage for U.S. forces. This suggests a coordinated effort to secure resources rather than a traditional military invasion.

Despite these strategic goals, critics warn that the maneuver may face significant international retaliation. Global competitors like Russia and China are not expected to intervene militarily but may instead seek economic revenge. One possible avenue is the destruction of the COMEX commodities exchange, which would be reflected in a sharp rise in gold and silver prices. Such a rise would serve as an indicator

of the deteriorating state of U.S. public finances and the weakening of the dollar.

The Legal Contradiction: International Sovereignty vs. Law Enforcement

The capture and transfer of a sitting head of state have raised significant legal questions under international law. The primary controversy centers on the United Nations Charter, specifically Article 2(4), which prohibits the use of force against the sovereignty or political independence of any state. International law generally recognizes only two exceptions to this rule: authorization by the UN Security Council or a clear act of self-defense following an armed attack.

In the case of the Maduro operation, the U.S. government has not claimed Security Council authorization, nor has it asserted that Venezuela launched an armed attack against the United States. Legal experts point out that criminal indictments and drug trafficking accusations do not typically satisfy the requirements for "self-defense" as defined by the Charter. Additionally, sitting heads of state traditionally enjoy personal immunity from foreign arrest while in office.

The United States has defended its actions by arguing that Maduro is not a legitimate head of state but is instead the leader of a criminal organization. By framing the operation as a law enforcement and national security action rather than a military intervention, Washington contends that Maduro's status as an indicted criminal for narcotics and terrorism-related charges strips him of normal diplomatic protections.

This unilateral approach has been met with condemnation from several world leaders. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva have warned that

normalizing such actions could destabilize regional norms and undermine the post-1945 international order. Russia and China have similarly criticized the operation, describing it as an "illegal abduction" and an abuse of power. While some nations like Israel and anti-Maduro factions in South America have welcomed the move, many traditional U.S. allies have remained non-committal or expressed concern regarding the legal precedent being set.

The "Donroe Doctrine" and Hemispheric Unilateralism

The administration's actions are rooted in the recently published National Security Strategy (NSS), which explicitly revives and expands upon the Monroe Doctrine. Often referred to by commentators as the "Donroe Doctrine," this policy shift marks a return to a unilateral sphere-of-influence defense strategy. The doctrine posits that while the United States intends to stay out of European affairs, it will aggressively defend the Western Hemisphere from foreign intervention and criminal destabilization.

The capture of Maduro is presented not as a random act of global adventurism, but as a specific application of this doctrine. The rationale provided in the NSS suggests that the U.S. must secure its own "backyard" by addressing regimes that host hostile foreign powers like Russia and China or that facilitate the export of drugs and violent cartels. By focusing on hemispheric security, the administration aims to distinguish its actions from the "forever wars" and nation-building projects of previous decades, such as those in Iraq or Afghanistan.

This strategy is characterized by "strategic impatience". Rather than engaging in open-ended, low-intensity conflicts, the focus is on "compression"—the rapid resolution of inherited crises to allow national attention to return to domestic priorities. The goal is to shorten timelines and collapse ambiguities, ensuring that the U.S. does not "loiter" in foreign theaters indefinitely.

Regional Communism and the Cartel of the Sun

Beyond the financial and legal frameworks, some analysts argue that the Venezuelan regime represents a deeper ideological threat. Journalist Alex Newman suggests that Maduro serves as the head of the "Cartel of the Sun," a criminal organization run directly by the leaders of the Venezuelan military and intelligence agencies. This cartel is described as having immense wealth and utilizing diplomatic immunity to smuggle illicit goods via government aircraft.

Furthermore, the situation in Venezuela is viewed as part of a "total communist takeover" of Latin America, allegedly aided by globalist figures and international organizations such as the Council on Foreign Relations. This movement is linked to historical revolutionary efforts, including those of the Weather Underground, which some analysts claim was birthed by the Fabian Society. The long-term plan of these groups is described as the systematic occupation of the region and the overthrow of traditional national structures.

The Venezuelan government is also accused of involvement in voter fraud on a global scale, including specific interference in the 2020 U.S. election. The administration reportedly views these activities as a direct threat to national security, although it has largely chosen to focus its public rhetoric on the criminal and narcotics aspects of the Maduro regime rather than these broader ideological and electoral concerns.

The Iranian Economic Collapse and Middle Eastern Backstopping

The beginning of 2026 has also seen significant developments in the Middle East, particularly in Iran. The Iranian rial has experienced a severe collapse, losing 20% of its value in a single month and sparking a major affordability crisis. Inflation has surged across the country, with food and medical prices rising by as much as 70%.

This economic turmoil has led to widespread street protests, with demonstrators demanding regime change. President Trump has signaled strong support for these protesters, stating that the United States is "locked and loaded" to prevent the Iranian government from retaliating against its citizens. These developments align with the administration's goal of using rapid pressure to force an inflection point in long-standing regional conflicts.

Simultaneously, reports indicate that the administration has agreed to provide military and diplomatic support to Israel in a potential new campaign against Iran. This commitment to "backstop" Israeli military actions suggests a willingness to use U.S. power to secure regional interests, even as the administration publicly deprioritizes Middle Eastern involvement unless direct threats to U.S. security emerge.

The Ukrainian Transition: From Corruption to CIA Integration

In Eastern Europe, the power structure of the Ukrainian government has undergone a significant shift. President Zelensky recently replaced his Chief of Staff with Kyrylo Budanov, the former head of military intelligence. Budanov is widely recognized as a "key partner" of U.S. intelligence agencies, having been trained by the CIA and even receiving medical treatment at Walter Reed hospital in the United States.

This appointment is seen as a strategic move to ensure that key Ukrainian decisions are brokered directly through CIA channels, potentially sidelining European influence in the conflict. This transition comes amid a series of corruption scandals within the Zelensky administration, leading to the removal of several high-ranking officials.

Zelensky has reportedly requested a fifty-year security guarantee from the United States, along with continued increases in financial and military aid. These requests place the administration in a position

of providing indefinite support to Ukraine, a situation that contrasts with its stated goal of negotiating an "expeditious cessation of hostilities" to refocus on domestic issues.

The Economic Imperative: Gold, Sound Money, and the Fed

A central theme in the analysis of national stability is the necessity of "sound money". Economic philosophers like Ludwig von Mises and Murray Rothbard argued that a monetary standard based on gold is essential for maintaining individual liberty and limiting government power. Mises noted that the gold standard was not a theoretical invention but a historical fact that accompanied the rise of Western capitalism, democracy, and welfare.

The historical transition to the gold standard was actually a defeat for governments that had tried to mandate bimetallism—a fixed exchange rate between gold and silver—which failed because bureaucrats could not accurately perceive market exchange ratios. The gold standard effectively removes the determination of money's purchasing power from the political arena, making it independent of the ambitions of political parties and interest groups.

Critics of the gold standard, often described as nationalists or interventionists, loathe the system because it prevents them from manipulating prices and wages or inflating the money supply to fund state expansion. Mises argued that the struggle against gold is part of a larger process of destruction where totalitarian omnipotence is substituted for liberty.

Rothbard expanded on these views by advocating for a completely free market in money, devoid of government interference. He emphasized that money should be understood as a unit of weight—such as grams or ounces—rather than abstract, government-controlled names like "dollars" or "francs". This return to

a weight-based commodity system would prevent the "superstition" that governments can create wealth by simply printing paper.

The "War as Health of the State" Philosophy

The persistence of global conflict is frequently analyzed through the lens of state survival. The phrase "war is the health of the state" suggests that a state in decline seeks war desperately to justify the suspension of constitutional protections and the expansion of its own power. From this perspective, any war conducted abroad is fundamentally a war against the domestic population, as it drains resources and justifies institutional dishonesty.

The first quarter of the 21st century has been characterized by a sequence of such manufactured crises, from the lie-driven wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the state-engineered disruptions of recent years. In each case, large corporations and political elites have benefited from government bailouts while the general public has suffered economic loss and a reduction in liberty.

The U.S. Federal Reserve is identified as a primary instrument in this process, having presided over a significant destruction of the dollar’s value through inflation. Between 1999 and 2025, the dollar lost nearly half of its purchasing power, while the state maintained the narrative that such inflation was beneficial or non-existent.

Domestic Manipulation: The Somali Scandal and Institutional Audits

The modern government employs "distraction and redirected rage" as primary domestic tools. By focusing public attention on specific scandals, such as fraud within immigrant communities, the state can channel collective anger away from its own institutional failures. For example, the media focus on Somali immigrant fraud in Minnesota and Ohio is seen by some as a "limited hangout" designed to obscure much larger fraud within the military and intelligence sectors.

A significant example of institutional failure is the Pentagon's consistent inability to pass a financial audit. It has recently failed its eighth consecutive audit, and experts suggest that an honest audit of the trillion-dollar military-security complex would likely lead to its collapse. To avoid such a reckoning, the state utilizes media outlets to demonize specific groups, such as Somalis, to maintain a "right side" for the public to support while continuing to fund the "military-industrial pyramid scheme".

This strategy also manifests in geopolitical maneuvers, such as the recognition of Somaliland. While ostensibly a move to decentralize and weaken the central government in Mogadishu, it is also seen as beneficial to broader strategic objectives in the Middle East. These actions reflect a lack of loyalty to traditional allies and a focus on maintaining state power through continuous regional management and "war-pimping".

Conclusion: Strategic Impatience and the Future

The current geopolitical climate in 2026 is defined by a rapid shift in coordinated momentum across multiple theaters. The capture of Nicolás Maduro, the economic crisis in Iran, and the leadership changes in Ukraine all point toward an administration that is prioritizing the swift resolution of inherited conflicts.

This policy of "strategic impatience" aims to collapse existing ambiguities and bring long-standing hostilities to a heel, allowing the United States to refocus on domestic priorities and hemispheric security under the Monroe Doctrine. While critics argue over the legalities and the potential for a "MAGA fracture," the administration continues to move forward with a strategy rooted in resource acquisition, sound money principles, and the aggressive defense of its sphere of influence.

Ultimately, the events of early 2026 suggest that the world is entering a new phase of international engagement. Whether these actions lead to a more stable national economy or a further erosion of international law remains to be seen, but the current direction is one of rapid, unilateral intervention intended to secure the interests of the state against both foreign and domestic challenges.